

FISCAL NOTE

SB 648 - HB 706

April 3, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes reimbursement of up to \$2,000 to any public school teacher in Tennessee achieving certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) for the fee expenses of obtaining such national certification. Present law requires the Commissioner of Education to provide reimbursement of evaluation fees for up to 25 teachers who voluntarily complete certification by the NBPTS.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$120,000

Assumptions:

- Teachers who receive NBPTS certification will be reimbursed by the Department of Education; no local funds will be used for this purpose.
- Last year, approximately 150 teachers applied for NBPTS.
- Applying the success rate of 40% to the current number of applicants (150), there would be an estimated 60 successful applicants.
- Under the bill, each teacher who receives certification will receive a one-time reimbursement of up to \$2,000. Therefore, it is estimated that state expenditures will increase \$120,000 (\$2,000 x 60 applicants).
- Once this incentive is put into place, the number of applicants and the resulting number of national board certified (NBPTS) teachers would greatly increase after the first year of implementation.

For information purposes: The current application fee for NBPTS certification is \$2,300 per applicant. Applicants for certification are currently eligible for a subsidy of 50% of this fee through federal funding at the state level or a NBPTS Appalachian High Needs Area Grant through the Tennessee Education Association (TEA). The subsidy of \$1,150 is based on completing the application process and is not tied to achieving certification. Applicants are not reimbursed directly, but the subsidy is instead applied to the candidate's National Board account balance.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director